JSC seeks volunteers for Trash Bash

JSC is looking for volunteers to join the fifth annual Trash Bash at 8:30 a.m. March 28 on the Seabrook side of the Kemah bridge.

Every year, thousands of volunteers gather along the Texas waterways to do their part in cleaning up the environment and participate in the largest statewide event to educate the public about the importance of our water resources.

Thousands of Houston/Galveston area volunteers join forces on March 28th for the fifth annual River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash. Volunteers from around Houston will clean up the waterways at 11 selected sites from Lake Conroe to Galveston. JSC's team of volunteers will clean up a section of Clear Lake near the Kemah Bridge.

Sponsored by local and national firms, the annual Trash Bash is a program of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority is regional coordinator of the annual event.

"We are trying to direct the public's attention to the importance our water holds for us in this watershed," said Lori Roussel, Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority's assistant to the general manager.

Everyone has a part to play with using the water, so we all should play a part with cleaning it.

Volunteers should meet at 8:30 a.m. on March 28 at the Boat Ramp on the north (Seabrook) side of the Kemah Bridge on Highway 146 at the 10th Street/Fay Street exit off 146, rain or shine, and should remember to wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

The clean-up is from 9-11:30 a.m. and the party is from 11:30-1:30 p.m. The party includes free lunch, entertainment, souvenirs and door prizes. Expect a large crowd, NASA is by no means the only participant.

Employees interested in making a difference and taking control of our environment should register for the 1998 Trash Bash by calling Sean Keprta at x45931.

JSC Photo by Kevin Koepke

NEW OUTFIT–Television personality Vanna White, famous for her wardrobe and letter turning on the syndicated show "Wheel of Fortune," tries on a new outfit during a visit to JSC on March 7. With help from Astronaut Jim Reilly, White dons a extravehicular mobility unit space suit while here to record promotional spots for the show's upcoming visit to the Houston area.

National Security Agency to test computer security

NASA, including JSC, soon will be the subject of computer security tests being mounted by the National Security Agency.

The tests, being undertaken at the request of the General Accounting Office, will evaluate the agency's government-funded computer systems' ability to resist penetration attacks.

"The GAO asked NSA to examine computer security at several agencies, including NASA," said JSC Chief Information Officer Jack Garman. "The tests at JSC will probably focus on mission and other critical systems, but any JSC system may be subject to testing. We also expect that NSA will monitor systems and network traffic during these tests."

The National Security Agency's testing protocols require that JSC and contractor users be made aware that tests will be conducted and that simply using these systems during the tests constitutes consent to be monitored for security purposes. This article is intended to serve as that official notification to employees.

"This is a good opportunity to remind the JSC user community of JSC policies regarding privacy and proper use of Government computer resources," Garman said.

This policy, which indicates that users of Government systems have no inherent expectation of privacy, is stated in both the JSC Information Technology Manual, JPD 2800.2, and in JSC Announcement-96-072, which is available on the JSC Web pages at: http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/org/jsc/internal/announcements/#1996

The National Security Agency testing is expected to last several weeks. Further information on NSA penetration testing is posted on the JSC Internal Home Page at http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov.

X-38 testing success attributed to center, agency teamwork

(Continued from Page 1)

tion to the X-38. "

"We made a real partnership between JSC and Dryden Flight Research Center," he said. "We were able to merge the experimental flight test culture of DFRC with the human space flight culture of JSC. The result was a successful fast-paced program that is proving all of the critical technologies for the crew return vehicle."

"With Johnson and Dryden employees working as a team, we were able to design, outfit and test the vehicle," said Bob Baron, Dryden X-38 project manager. "Using existing NASA infrastructure, such as the Johnson and Dryden control rooms and the B-52 mothership, has provided considerable cost and schedule savings in the development of this prototype X-38 vehicle."

Once operational, the X-38 will become the first new human spacecraft designed to return humans from orbit in more than 20 years, and it is being developed at a fraction of the cost of past human space vehicles. The primary application of the new spacecraft would be as an International Space Station "lifeboat," but the project also aims at developing a design that could be easily modified for other uses, such as a possible joint U.S. and international human spacecraft that could be launched on expendable rockets as well as the space shuttle.

The European Space Agency is cooperating with NASA in the current development work, supplying several components for the planned space test vehicle.

The X-38 is being developed with an unprecedented eye toward efficiency, taking advantage of available equipment and already-developed technology for as much as 80 percent of the spacecraft's design. The design uses a lifting body concept originally developed by the Air Force X-24A project in the mid-1970s.

Following the jettison of a deorbit engine module, the X-38 would glide from orbit unpowered like the Space Shuttle and then use the steerable parafoil parachute for its final descent to landing.

In the early years of the International Space Station, a Russian Soyuz spacecraft will be attached to the station as a crew return vehicle. But, as the size of the station crew increases, a return vehicle like the X-38, that can accommodate up to seven passengers, will be needed.

NNews latest JSC information tool

(Continued from Page 1)

news. All users will receive safety and centerwide information.

An emergency channel also will help communicate emergency information. This feature is in the hands of JSC's Emergency Operations Center, and will compliment the emergency broadcast loudspeaker system that spans the campus.

Soon, NNews will be distributed automatically to all workstations via the network. For now, the program is available for employees to download to their workstations from the Information Systems Directorate web page at the following address: http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/org/GA/nnews/

"A more prepared and safer JSC is possible with widespread availability of NNews and the Emergency Broadcast System feature for workstations," said Information Systems Director Dick Thorson.

"Most JSC workers are always busy, with little to no idle time. There are, however, moments between jobs, meetings, telephone calls, lunch or reading. With the NNews screen saver, users can be apprised of the latest JSC and NASA related information without having to hunt," Thorson said. "They need only glance at a screen to be more informed and potentially safer. NNews can deliver information on demand and also fill the few gaps in the day conveying safety information and JSC News. Workstations become more productive and people better informed with NNews. As a screen saver NNews can inform anyone within sight of the workstation who might be passing by or waiting for a meeting."

NNews is available for any office to use for exchanging or posting information. NNews providers use a simple "one page at a time" editor in order to publish. The process of creating and publishing a screen for viewing takes only minutes. No Web site is required, but NNews may be integrated with Web site information.

Division-level organizations that need the NNews distribution method should select a prime and alternate employee as NNews providers, then submit a Service Request.

Robert Anderson will serve as administrator of the NNews system for ISD's Information Technology Office. For more details, contact Anderson (robert.t.anderson1@jsc.nasa.gov or x38803)

Space News ROUNDUP!

The Roundup is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and is published every other Friday by the Public Affairs Office for all space center employees. Deadline for the submission of articles is Friday, three weeks before the desired date of publication.

The Roundup office is in Bldg. 2, Rm. 181. The mail code is AP3. The main Roundup telephone number is x38648, and the fax number is x45165. Electronic mail messages may be directed to:

kelly.o.humphries1@jsc.nasa.gov or leslie.eaton1@jsc.nasa.gov.

Editor . . . . . .Kelly Humphries
Associate Editor . . . . .Leslie Eaton

Retirees should submit change of address notices to the distribution group at Mail Code BT552 or call Ignacia Ramirez at 281-483-6161.

Leak check verifies integrity of Node 1

(Continued from Page 1)

evidence of helium leakage from the node. The test required cooperation and support by workers from both NASA and its prime station contractor, Boeing, at JSC, KSC and Marshall Space Flight Center.

"The smooth conduct of the test and the successful results speak volumes about professionalism and the high quality products of the engineering team here at JSC, in Huntsville and at KSC," Bastedo said. "In addition, we can have great confidence in the workmanship that has been performed to date on the Node."

With the test complete, the node will be removed from the payload canister and returned to the element rotation stand for completion of the Cargo Element Integrated Test, which ultimately will verify the node's functional readiness for launch.

Later, in the Operations and Checkout Bldg., other elements of the station will be leak checked in an altitude chamber built by NASA for the Apollo program. Modifications being made to the chamber will accommodate these components.

NASA-JSC

NASA Briefs

NASA introduces Web-wide search

NASA has issued the first release of its agencywide World Wide Web search engine, which will allow Internet users to search across hundreds of Web sites at all NASA centers. The first index of NASA documents contains more than 360,000 HTML and text documents. The agency's Web team will continue to develop the search engine, adding new features as it learns more about how the public is using the tool. For a look at the new Internet search engine, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/search/index.html

Landsat launch delay

The Landsat-7 Earth science spacecraft will not be launched in July 1998 as planned, due to necessary changes in the design of the electrical power supply hardware for the spacecraft's main instrument. A new target launch date will be set by NASA officials after completion of instrument thermal vacuum tests scheduled for this July. During a series of instrument-level thermal vacuum tests beginning in December 1997, a power supply on the Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus instrument failed twice. ETM+ is Landsat-7's only science instrument. As a result of the most recent failure in January, both internally redundant power supplies were returned to their manufacturer. Completion of vacuum testing will be delayed while the power supplies are being repaired, which will consequently delay the launch. NASA will now work with its launch contractor, Boeing, on moving the Landsat-7 launch to a mutually agreeable date.

Evidence adds to dinosaur killer theory

Two new impact crater sites in Belize and Mexico add further evidence to the hypothesis that an asteroid or comet collided with Earth about 65 million years ago, subsequently killing off the dinosaurs and many other species on the planet. Centered on the coast of Yucatan, Mexico, the Chicxulub crater is estimated to be about 120 miles in diameter. The impact 65 million years ago kicked up a global cloud of dust and sulfur gases that blocked sunlight from penetrating through the atmosphere and sent Earth into a decade of near-freezing temperatures. The drop in temperature and related environmental effects are thought to have brought about the demise of the dinosaurs and about 75 percent of the other species on Earth.

Two solar studies to measure energy

The Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC, and the University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics in Boulder have been selected by NASA's Office of Earth Science to conduct parallel six-month definition studies of a new small satellite to monitor variations in the amount of radiant solar energy that reaches Earth. The precise measurements, to be obtained by the Total Solar Irradiance Mission, will help scientists better understand the relationship between the Sun's variable energy output and its effects on Earth's climate. NASA has been measuring the total radiative output of the Sun from the unique perspective of space since the late 1970s. The current sensor being used is called the Active Cavity Radiometer Irradiance Monitor.